

2024

ANNUAL REPORT

For the year ending
September 30, 2024



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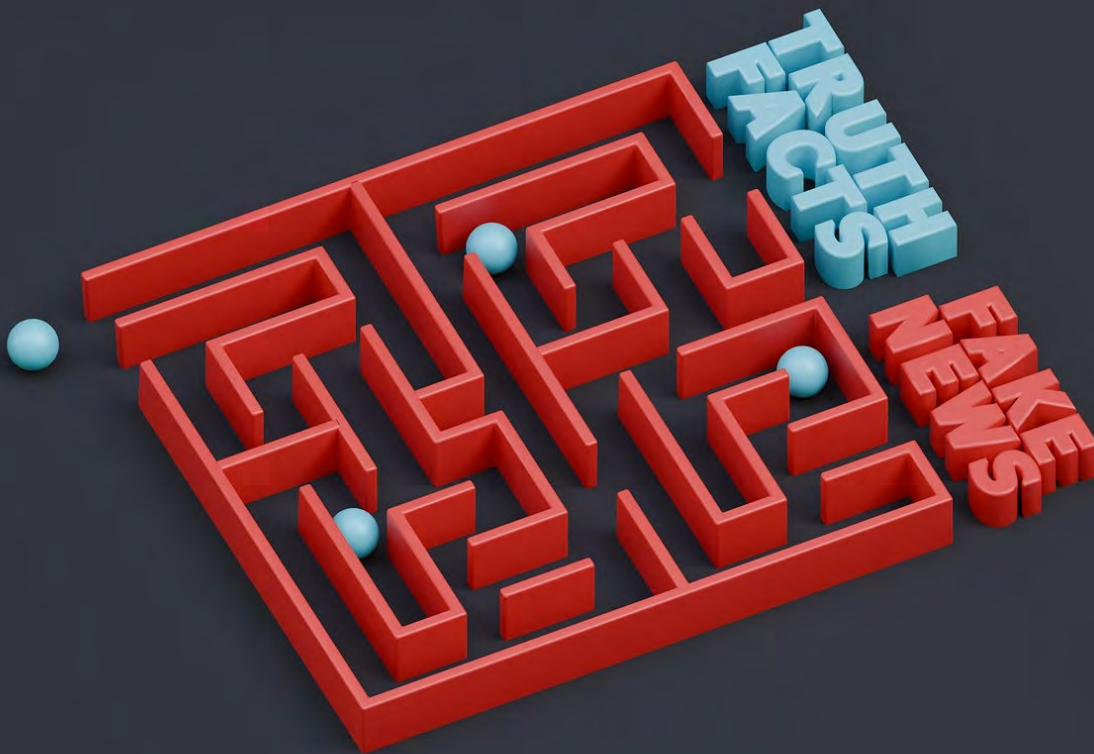


UNDER ATTACK! UNDER A

**GLOBALLY AND ACROSS CANADA
SECULARISM, SCIENCE AND
HUMAN RIGHTS HAVE BEEN...
UNDER ATTACK!**

CENTRE FOR INQUIRY CANADA (CFIC) has worked to hold the line on these fundamental principles in Canada throughout the year. This difficult era will come to an end, and CFIC will be poised to regain lost ground when it happens.

Your donations, memberships, volunteering, and moral support all help.



CRITICAL THINKING & SCIENCE

Misinformation and disinformation are [identified by experts around the world as the #1 short-term global risk](#). Since *disinformation* ([false information deliberately and often covertly spread](#)) is seemingly impossible to stop, it is critical that Canadians have the tools they need to evaluate information so that they do not unwittingly become the purveyors of *misinformation* ([incorrect or misleading information](#)).

Throughout 2024, CFIC has brought you information about how to think better. There have been reminders about the perils of social media, about the [increased risks associated with AI](#), especially the ability to create realistic-sounding speech, about [politicians' use of half-truths to spread misinformation](#). Podcast for Inquiry has provided some insight into why people think the way that they do with [Science Denial: Why it happens and What to Do about it](#), with Gale Sinatra, [Melanie Trecek-King defines and discusses critical thinking](#) and [The search for truth](#), with Carolyn Biltoft.

This year, we hope to make our Critical Thinking Library a reality.

Stay tuned.



SECULARISM

CFIC has focused much of its efforts on secular issues, and with the support of many volunteers, CFIC is having an impact.

CFIC has continued to pressure the Ontario Government to discontinue the discriminatory public funding of Catholic Schools (we are looking for leadership for similar campaigns in Saskatchewan and Alberta). This year, [a petition was submitted to the government of Ontario highlighting the concerns of many Ontario residents](#). While it [received little in the way of a response](#) from the government, it ensured that the issue remained in the minds of politicians. CFIC also spearheaded a [letter-writing campaign](#) to the government of Ontario and was pleased to [nominate Renton Patterson for a human rights award](#) for his lifetime of work promoting one public education system.

Chaplaincy or Pastoral Care are significant sources of social support for people with a religious background in many institutions. However, for those with no religion, this social support may be lacking in the armed forces, in prisons, and in other institutions. We were pleased in October 2023 to congratulate our friends at Humanist Canada for [ordaining a humanist chaplain](#) and we are hopeful that our research into pastoral care in prisons will result in improvements in the lives of non-religious prisoners.

Unfortunately, there continues to be a need to highlight the continuing non-secular traditions of many of Canada's institutions. In [December 2023](#), we continued the story of the religious policies of the Calgary Police Services. CFIC also promoted the BC Humanist Association's [campaign to end prayers at municipal council meetings](#) with a [Podcast for Inquiry episode](#) and a call for volunteers.



CFIC continues to staunchly support the LGBT community, and argue that one's faith does not provide permission to violate the human rights of others. Each year the Salvation Army stands in malls, supermarkets, and liquor stores, asking for donations for people in need. While we celebrate any effort to ameliorate the conditions of people living in poverty, CFIC is concerned [that the Salvation Army is outwardly hostile](#) towards anyone not adopting a heterosexual lifestyle.

CFIC members proudly participated in Pride events across the county, with Critical Links bringing you a [poignant reflection from Carolyn Alden](#) and information about an annual [big event in the small town](#) of Russell Township.





If we want the government to provide more secular policies, we must ensure that they know the true and declining rates of religiosity in Canada. The [long-form census question about religion](#) results in an exaggeration of the true extent of religiosity in Canada, though the precise magnitude of this error is impossible to determine. CFIC has taken a leadership role in creating a multi-organization collaboration with several other secular and humanist partners to correct this question and provide a more accurate picture of the level of religion in Canada.

Internationally, secularism was set back in many places. Throughout the year, CFIC kept an eye on the [situation in the United States](#). The increasing role of religion in US politics is terrifying. CFIC is committed to ensuring that this same fanaticism does not come to Canada.

[The Cost of Religion in Canada](#) remains an important look into one significant way (perhaps 5.6 billion ways) Canada violates secular principles. CFIC took this message on the road in 2024 as part of a [round table discussion](#) hosted by Humanist Canada, live to several local humanist groups, and virtually to groups across Canada. We were thrilled (and prepared to accept some of the credit) when the [House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance recommended](#), [\(see recommendation #430\): “amend\[ing\] the Income Tax Act to provide a definition of a charity which would remove the privileged status of ‘advancement of religion’ as a charitable purpose.”](#)



HUMAN RIGHTS

CFIC and the Group of Five refugee sponsors from Rocky Mountain Atheists are astonished that Omer has still not arrived in Canada. Despite asking questions, filing access to information requests, and engaging legal counsel, we still do not know when Omer might arrive. We continue to appreciate those who provide financial support to Omer. He is holding on and trying to remain optimistic.

Over the past few years, CFIC's Human Rights Chair Onur Romano has been involved with supporting people fleeing persecution for being atheists. Each year he continues to highlight the global situation through his "Protecting Blasphemers" event. Onur also continues to ensure that CFIC is represented in the global community.



COMMUNICATIONS & EDUCATION

At its heart, CFIC is an educational charity. We provide information to inform and to entertain, always with the goal of expanding people's awareness so that they can knowledgeably contribute to democratic dialogue. Our primary educational vehicles are our [website](#), our [Critical Links newsletter](#), [Podcast for Inquiry](#), and social media.

Increasingly, CFIC is being asked to speak with the media about secular issues. In the year ending September 30 2024 we took our ["Cost of Religion"](#) reports on the road, presenting in person and remotely to local and national humanist groups. We are also the "go-to" secular voice for at least two newspapers in Canada.

The CFIC website has a wealth of information, with a built-in search engine allowing users to search for topics of interest to them.

CFIC makes every effort to provide unbiased information. Articles are fact-checked, including verifying that references are to reputable journals or news sources.



VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are the lifeblood of CFIC.

Virtually everything we do is the result of passionate volunteers who get things done. We welcome new volunteers to do everything from organizing local meetings, to editing our website, designing graphics, fact checking, writing articles, and more.



FINANCIAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

The 2025 reviewed financial statements are available in full on our website.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION		
	YE 2024	YE 2023
ASSETS		
Current Assets	59,787	30,779
Equipment	535	669
Total Assets	59,322	31,448
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities	21,591	7,453
Total Liabilities	21,591	7,453
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted Net Assets	30,972	23,995
Internally Restricted Net Assets	6,759	–
Net Assets	37,731	23,995

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

REVENUES	YE 2024	YE 2023
Donations	82,927	63,033
Membership Fees	12,283	10,600
Fundraising and Events	2,108	1,606
	97,318	75,239
EXPENSES		
Subcontractors	40,496	31,509
Program	18,462	16,019
Occupancy	15,840	15,840
Professional Fees	3,930	3,422
Fundraising Costs	2,107	1,453
Office	1,168	386
Insurance	1,445	1,966
Amortization	134	168
	83,582	70,763
Excess of Revenues Over Expenses	13,736	4,476